

morita.txt

Subject:
Help Protect California's Air Quality
From:
Erin Morita <emmorita@hotmail.com>
Date:
Sat, 07 Aug 2004 11:39:09 -0500
To:
Deborah Drechsler <ddrechsl@arb.ca.gov>

Saturday, August 7, 2004

Deborah Drechsler
California Air Resources Board
Research Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Deborah Drechsler,

My mother was a longtime Los Angeles resident who has battled asthma and other breathing problems for more than 20 years. Her health is so fragile that she has been unable to work or support herself for the last 10, although she has all her faculties and would like the stimulation and contact that work offers. She lives with my family, and it is heartbreaking on a daily basis to witness and try to deal with her struggles.

I am writing to express my strong support for establishing air quality standards that will better protect my family. To that end, I encourage you to establish a new California 8-hour average standard for ozone. This is needed to protect public health and should be set at 0.070 parts per million level, not to be exceeded. In addition, I support keeping the 1-hour average ozone standard of 0.09 parts per million, not to be exceeded. This standard is necessary to protect against short-term peak concentrations of ozone that are also prevalent in California.

Neither the 1-hour nor the 8-hour standard can stand alone. Both standards are necessary to provide protection against short-term peaks and also against longer-term exposure that can contribute to respiratory irritation and reduction in lung function.

Research clearly shows that the current California Ambient Air Quality Standards are not sufficient to protect public health, including that of sensitive populations, with an adequate margin of safety, as required by the Children's Environmental Health Protection Act. Substantial evidence exists of both short- and long-term deleterious health effects at levels meeting the current standards.

Millions of Californians are at risk of impaired lung function, irritating respiratory symptoms, increased hospitalizations for heart and lung problems, and increased emergency room visits for asthma at current concentrations of ozone. Children, seniors, people with lung diseases such as asthma, and people who work or exercise outdoors are especially susceptible to respiratory problems triggered by ozone.

I also support California Air Resources Board recommendations for state funding of research on the effects of multi-hour concentrations of ozone at lower concentrations than the proposed standards.

Sincerely,

Erin Morita
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Carmel, CA 93923 - 9021

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